

## **A Century of Service: Historical Timeline of Marines at Quantico**

### Before the Marines Arrived

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General George Barnett, began searching for an East Coast base emphasizing that he "...did not want a base within the limits of an active navy yard as the industrial and other Navy requirements paramount there would probably crowd out the Marine Corps activities."

With the coming of war, the Marine Corps lost no time in its quest for an East Coast base. On the same day that war was declared, the Major-General Commandant appointed a board - - for the purpose of recommending a site in this [Washington] vicinity for a temporary training camp and maneuver field for the Marine Corps," and told the board "... this site should be of sufficient size to accommodate approximately 7,500 men, with the necessary maneuver field and target ranges." Colonel Charles A. Doyen, Lieutenant Colonel George Van Orden and Captain Seth Williams made up the board. The board made several tours in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. and after checking some proposed sites, picked one for a camp of 7,000 men, and another close by for a maneuver area. The locations were inspected by other Marines and after brief deliberations were ruled unacceptable.

On 16 April 1917, the Commandant sent the board back into the field and they went the next day to Quantico, Virginia, and inspected a proposed camp there. The land they looked at belonged to the Quantico Company which was not having much success getting rid of it. Despite the company's efforts at selling lots and laying out streets in the town of Quantico, the shipbuilding program and the tourist business, the Quantico Company was in financial trouble. It owned more real estate than it could properly dispose of. On 23 April 1917, the board told the Commandant "...it is believed that the site at Quantico fulfills all requirements of a concentration and training camp for the Marine Corps, and has all the requirements for a permanent post, except that it is not on deep water."

On 29 May 1917, the Secretary of the Navy directed the Commandant to "...organize a force of Marines to be known as the Fifth Regiment of Marines for service with the Army as part of the first expedition to proceed to France in the near future."

### Timeline of Key Events at Quantico

14 May 1917:	Marine Barracks Quantico activated
16 July 1917:	Marine Officer's Training Camp established at Quantico
World War I: for	6th, 11th, and 13th Marines as well as 5th Brigade formed at Quantico
13 June 1919: Quantico)	Marine Flying Field activated (today Marine Corps Air Facility
2 February 1920:	Marine Corps Institute formed at Quantico

1 September 1920: Marine Corps Schools activated at Quantico

October 1920: Advanced Base Force relocated to Quantico from Philadelphia

July 1921: *Advanced Base Operations in Micronesia* approved by Commandant; researched and written by Earl H. “Pete” Ellis while at Quantico

Summer 1921: Expeditionary maneuvers at the Wilderness Civil War battlefield conducted with Quantico forces, complete with aviation assets—first conducted with aviation

Summer 1921: Building of Butler Stadium begin with Marines working by hand (not finished until after WWII)

5 May 1922: Brown Field dedicated

November 1932: New barracks completed along Barnett Avenue

1933: Marine Corps Equipment Board established to examine what was available from civilian industry that could be adapted to Marine Corps use; not to research or develop new equipment

June 1934: Six months of effort by students and staff paid off with completion of *Tentative Manual for Landing Operations*

May 1935: Quantico “Sentry” newspaper established

1 July 1936: Turner Field dedicated as air facility expands

Spring 1937: Quantico Marines aided residents of Fredericksburg after devastating flood hit the city

Late 1939: New Naval Hospital completed at Shipping Point (now Hospital Point)

Fall 1939: New FBI Academy buildings begun being constructed

15 August 1940: Massive hurricane strikes Parris Island; recruits sent to Quantico to complete training. Tent city erected along Barnett Avenue and more than 900 recruits trained by 30 September when temporary service ends

1 November 1940: Officers Candidate Class commences training officer candidates at Quantico

7 July 1941: 1st Marine Aircraft Wing activated at Quantico

World War II: Between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945, 15,000 2d Lieutenants were commissioned and trained at Quantico; an estimated 20,000 additional Marine officers and those of other US Armed Forces and Allied nations received specialized training at Quantico.

1942: The largest acquisition of land in the base's history took place to meet the need for training areas. Almost 51,000 acres of land west of Route 1 were purchased and became permanent part of the base in 1943; it was dubbed "Guadalcanal Area" to differentiate from "Mainside."

23 January 1943: One of the most unique schools in the Corps was established; Marine Corps Dog School opened with a student population of 14 Doberman Pinschers. It moved to Camp Lejeune just two months later.

16 July 1946: Commanding General of Marine Barracks Quantico directed to assume dual title and authority of Commandant Marine Corps Schools, and was directed to reorganize all activities so as to orient the major effort of Quantico towards support of education.

November 1947: The Iwo Jima statue relocated from Constitution Avenue in DC to its present location outside the main gate at Quantico.

1 December 1947: The Marine Corps' first helicopter squadron HMX-1 was activated at Quantico as part of the Landing Force Development Center.

1 January 1948: Marine Barracks ceased as part of Marine Corps Schools designation.

June 1949: The Woman Officer Training Program's first class reported; the program was set up under The Basic School to screen and educate candidates for commissions.

1953: The former Aviation Technical School was drastically updated and provided a facelift and reopened as Larson Gymnasium.

June 1956: The Fleet Marine Force Organization and Composition Board ("Hogaboom Board"-named after chair MajGen Robert E. Hogaboom) met at Quantico to consider substantial changes in composition, functions, and equipment of the FMF.

10 November 1957: The new chapel was dedicated after completion in September.

1 January 1968: In a major reorganization, Marine Corps Schools was redesignated as Marine Corps Development and Education Command, which consisted of the Education Center, Development Center, Marine Corps Base (which included the air station) and better reflected the command's mission of education and development.

February 1971: The Marine Corps' first Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Academy was opened at Quantico.

January 1982: Marine Corps Marathon headquarters moves from Marine Barracks Washington 8<sup>th</sup> & I, to Marine Corps Base Quantico.

10 November 1987: Marine Corps Development and Education Command redesignated as Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

10 November 1987: With reorganization and redesignation of MCDEC to MCCDC, Marine Corps Base Quantico separated from the command as its own unit with responsibility for traditional base duties.

1 August 1989: Marine Corps University activated to consolidate all non-training education Marine Corps-wide.

Late 1998: Elements of HQMC relocate to Quantico, including Manpower and Reserve Affairs and Marine Corps Recruiting Command

26 March 2001: Marine Corps Base Quantico was designated a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places

10 November 2006: National Museum of the Marine Corps opened just outside the main gates of Quantico

17 July 2009: The Commanding General's Quarters were placed on the National Register of Historic Places

June 2015: The first DoD Warrior Games were held at Quantico